

The RAYMOND RECORDER

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IT'S JUST AS GOOD AND CHEAP AS IN RAYMOND

My Week

by R. J. Deachman

A friend of mine, who, for his sins, must live in Toronto the Good instead of in Ottawa the Magnificent, visited this Mecca of Politics the other day and asked me to have lunch with him.

Unfortunately I couldn't but I went over to the hotel to see him anyway for he is a bright boy full of ideas and worth listening to any day of the week. We talked about state medicine, sickness insurance, the inefficiency of near statesmen and sundry other matters of vital importance to those who now live in this world of sin and sorrow.

My friend is full of ideas. There are people who have a passion for going the wrong way. He can put signs along the road-side which mean exactly what they say and cannot possibly be misunderstood—a wonderful achievement in an age when so many are anxious to go wrong in the hope that good may come of it.

In the midst of our conversation he came forth with this suggestion: We have health insurance, also automobile insurance. In Ontario an auto insurance policy covers everything. If you have a collision and bend a mudguard the company compensates you. In Saskatchewan they have a different form of insurance unless damage exceeds \$100 you get nothing. There are certain advantages in that. It makes people more careful! A damage up to \$100 is not a serious one and the insured may very well carry his own risk to that amount.

Now my friend suggests that health insurance be issued on the same basis. The thing that knocks a man out so far as health is concerned is a long continue illness. He may have a limited spell of illness in which the bill amounts to \$100 or less. It is not a serious matter. Serious difficulty comes from long continued illness running into weeks and months with bills which tie a person up for life. Here is the risk which calls for insurance. It would be interesting to see the difference in costs between a general policy which covered everything and one on the basis of "\$100 deductible."

The dispute in regard to railway wage rates was settled by agreement. The railway unions had the power to strangle the economic life of Canada. Would the settlement have been

Lethbridge Experimental Station

Weekly Letter

Arther Phelps



Arthur L. Phelps, Professor of English at McGill University, who gives his impressions of current best-sellers, old literary favourites and their authors, in a series of weekly talks about books and people. He is heard Wednesdays at 8:15 p.m. on CBK, 9:15 p.m. on CKV. For three decades Professor Phelps has been teaching English literature in Canadian Universities, and is a popular reviewer and author, as well.

the same if it were purely a matter of justice by the power of organized labor?

The reason advanced for the increase were wholly invalid. Imagine the claim that Canadian railwaymen should have American railway rates. Then so should Canadian farmers and all other workers. The cost to Canada of this increase would be terrible. In the long run the present increase will prove a costly business to the railway workers. Unfortunately they do not know the harm they have done. They will find out later—they have a greater interest in the welfare of the nation than they think they have. They have made a long stride towards the next depression. One cannot help feeling sorry for them.

Attorney General Blackwell of the Province of Ontario has resigned from his position. He feels that private law is far better than he should do. The suggestion that he should do private practice will be more profitable than that he should lobby for an increase. The suggestion, in some quarters, is that this constitutes a danger to the Province and that an effort should be made to increase the compensation of those who serve the nation and thus ensure their retention in government service. I know nothing whatever of the capacity of Mr. Blackwell. That is not the issue. There may be many other men of the same political faith who could serve equally well. Besides a good lawyer in private practice probably renders a service to the nation as important as he would render in serving his province.

I question whether an increase in the compensation of cabinet ministers in federal or provincial fields would draw better men into that particular task. If it succeeded in doing so there would be a loss to the nation as a whole through withdrawing these men from private business and putting them into government jobs. Men will accept political positions if they believe that there is a distinct honor in serving the nation instead of serving their own clients. Let them make their own decisions. What right has the government to monopolize all the good men.

HOW MUCH DOES YOUR FLEECE SHRINK?

Did you ever consider the fact that a ten pound fleece may contain as low as three pounds of clean wool or as high as seven? The remainder called shrinkage, is made up of moisture, grease, dirt, burrs, tags, and other impurities. The proportion of clean wool in the fleece determines the grease price of the wool so it can readily be seen that this proportion of clean wool can mean the difference between profit and loss. Shrinkage studies carried out at the Experimental Station, Lethbridge indicate that impurities in the fleece, account for 30 to 70 per cent of the grease weight.

These impurities should be kept at a minimum because the price of wool is based on the clean yield, yet the freight charges are assessed on the total weight. Consequently, the grower pays freight on these impurities and receives no return for it.

The successful wool grower must be an efficient and economical producer. This means that the maximum amount of clean wool must be produced from each sheep, and every chance for increasing the yield must be used advantageously. The first opportunity to increase production occurs when the replacement ewes are selected. Every effort should be made to select those that are the heaviest wool producers.

The amount of clean wool is even more important in the selection of breeding rams, since each ram will have many progeny and will exert a major influence on the future wool producing ability of the flock. A simple method of determining which of the rams produce the greatest amount of clean wool may be employed at shearing time. A small sample weighing approximately one pound, may be taken from the fleece, scoured, and the shrinkage determined. Thus, the yield of clean wool in the fleece can be obtained.

Further particulars concerning this method of ram selection may be obtained on request from the Experimental Station, Lethbridge.

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